

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Norfolk Division

BRANDON WAYNE THOMAS, #1486444,

Petitioner,

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:19cv479

HAROLD W. CLARKE, Director,  
Virginia Department of Corrections,

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER

Before the Court is a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, ECF No. 1, filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, and the Respondent's motion to dismiss. ECF No. 8. On December 5, 2014, following a jury trial, Petitioner was convicted of first-degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in the Circuit Court for County of Chesterfield ("the Trial Court"). ECF No. 1 at 1. Petitioner was sentenced to forty-three years imprisonment. *Id.* In his petition, the *pro se* Petitioner challenges the constitutionality of this conviction.

The matter was referred for disposition to a United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 636(b)(1)(B)-(C), Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b), Local Civil Rule 72, and the April 2, 2002 Standing Order on Assignment of Certain Matters to United States Magistrate Judges. In a Report and Recommendation entered on June 30, 2020 (ECF No. 14), the Magistrate Judge recommended the motion to dismiss be granted, and the petition be denied and dismissed with prejudice. The parties were advised of their right to file written objections to the Report and Recommendation. Neither the Petitioner nor the Respondent filed objections with the Court.

Having reviewed the record and having heard no objection, the Court agrees with the Report and Recommendation on the grounds stated by the Magistrate Judge and **ADOPTS** and **APPROVES** the Report and Recommendation, ECF No. 14, in its entirety as the Court's own opinion. Accordingly, the Respondent's motion to dismiss, ECF No. 8, is **GRANTED**, and the Petition, ECF No. 1, is **DENIED** and **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**. It is **ORDERED** that judgment be entered in favor of the Respondent.

The Petitioner is hereby notified that he may appeal from the judgment entered pursuant to this Final Order by filing a *written* notice of appeal with the Clerk of the Court at the Walter E. Hoffman United States Courthouse, 600 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510, within thirty (30) days from the date judgment is entered. Because the Petitioner has failed to demonstrate a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c) and Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22(b)(1), the Court declines to issue a certificate of appealability. *See Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 335-36 (2003).

The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to forward a copy of this Order to Petitioner and to counsel for Respondent.

It is so **ORDERED**.



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Robert G. Doumar  
Senior United States District Judge

Norfolk, Virginia

Date:

*August 12, 2020*